

Carolyn Arnold

JFK assassination records appeals

Harold Weisberg 10/19/79

Withheld records - original statements of Texas School Book Depository, especially of Mrs. Carolyn Arnold (since remarried)

It is the FBI's usual practice, when it takes signed statements, for the agents to write out what they want in the statements, to eliminate what they do not want, and then to have the witnesses sign what the agents have written. I have found serious factual errors in some of these. I published one in facsimile in my second book, relating to placing Oswald at the scene of the crime at the time of the crime. In my third book, again in facsimile, I showed how the FBI omitted from the signed statement what the witness had stated that the FBI did not want. That matter relates to a then Mrs. Carolyn Arnold, who could have been supported or refuted by several of her co-workers, who were with her when she left the building and from whom there are no statements relating to hers.

In short, what she actually told the FBI is that she saw him on the first floor at a time that precluded Oswald's being on the eighth floor in time to fire his rifle from there.

The FBI got around this in its PB302 by merely giving a time other than Mrs. ARNOLD gave 12:15 rather than 12:25.

There came a time when the Commission asked the FBI to obtain signed statements from all the TSBD's employees in which they responded to a number of questions. One was had they seen Oswald at the time of the crime. They were not asked if they had seen him at any other time that morning, as a number had. Prior to providing the statements to the Commission the FBI retyped all of them. These retyped copies are 62-109060-2720. This serial does not include the originals. It thus does not reflect any correcting of any FBI error by any witness, or any incorrect formulation by the FBI. The originals, particularly Mrs. Arnold's, interest me.

In all of this the FBI observed its first rule, of covering itself. Thus in 2705 it states these statements "do not contain any information not previously reported..." and that "there were no discrepancies"

4

In Serial 2783 Dallas teletyped a correction in Mrs. Arnold's statement as prepared not by her but by the FBI, changing the time from the impossible, 12:25 a.m. to 12:25 p.m. (This was known to me because I had had a reporter locate and interview Mrs. Arnold earlier this year. I've forgotten her new name.)

Although Serial 2783 stated that "Dallas has obtained 75 signed statements" in Serial 2813 the FBI conveyed to the Commission only 73 of them. Here the FBI adds the untruthful in its cover-the-Bureau note, that the statements contain nothing of importance "not previously reported." There is a substantial difference in the time attributed to Mrs. Arnold by the FBI, from a time that made it possible ~~for~~ for Oswald to have been the assassin to a time that made it impossible.

In 2818 this error is described as "a typing error." I believe this is not truthful. The original, handwritten statement will resolve the question - and I believe that this is why it was not provided in 2780.

This is not a trifling matter because Mrs. Arnold, who knew him, actually told the FBI that she saw Oswald on the first floor at the very time the motorcade was due. In the original report the FBI moved the time up ten minutes to obscure the truth. Among the other reasons for believing that Oswald was where Mrs. Arnold said she saw him is his statements to the police when he was questioned, with FBI agents present, when Oswald told the police who he saw walking past - and in this was confirmed by testimony. (Obviously if he had not been there he could not have given the police an accurate report of who did walk past where he was. ~~HEARD~~ also obviously the FBI knew this.)

Moreover, the other erroneous statement the FBI wrote out for another witness to sign referred to above is on the same subject, where Oswald was at the time of the crime.

One Oswald could not have been on the first and on the sixth floors at the same time. I first raised the question of "Alibi" Oswald's in my first book, and the FBI had many reports of an Oswald that could not have been the real Lee Harvey Oswald. Late last night and early this morning the news adds topicality- Dallas County authorities want to examine the body. (It also appears that the FBI never investigated to determine why Oswald's autopsy does not disclose childhood surgery.)

Quin-

I add this personal note and send this separately because of the potential of discovering no sign of the mastoid operation Os ald had as a kid. If the body is exhumed. Or the potential of refusing to exhumed.

There just was too much covering up and inevitably there will be problems from it.

However, I am not in agreement with the guy who is forcing this, a wild criticized named Edlowes whose work is factually flawed and whose theories are untenable.

He built his wealth and reputation over a bad police job he exposed as a lawyer.

Remember the Department's touting of taking the hangout road in the ~~press~~ general releases - that it was disclosing all. In practise the device was a means of not disclosing all.

I have little doubt that there is much the FBI did not investigate because there was an immediate preconception to which all conformed thereafter.

So there was no investigation of any false Oswald's. Instead the effort was put-down and extended to all contradictions of the preconception.

But there is no doubt that there were original statements rather than the FBI's retyped versions that are in the ritual serial. Additionally there are all included in my Dallas request and case.

I had copies of the records I refer to made earlier but had not gotten to them. My purposes are explained in the attached and it is an old and serious interest. I took them from the stack after an early morning broadcast saying that medical authorities have acknowledged deficiencies and discrepancies and asked for the exhumation.

Bear in mind that no matter how unreasonable it is Edlowes has had much attention for his theory that the KGB offed JFK through its substitution for Oswald. On the basis of all I know this is entirely unreasonable. But consider the potential of it turns out that the body in the Fort Worth grave shows no sign of a mastoidectomy.

Edlowes will suddenly be credible and with this all his wild notions will appear to have credibility.

All the covering up, all the non-investigation and all the objections can have very serious consequences.

As much as possible should be shed, thrown out promptly. One important area is where Oswald was at the time of the crime and for the preceding few minutes.

Actily, 10/19/79